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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

★ SEP 13 1937 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING REFERENDUM ON A PROPOSED ACREAGE GOAL FOR IRISH (WHITE) POTATOES UNDER THE 1938 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. A referendum on a proposed acreage goal for Irish (white) potatoes planted for harvest in 1938 will be held in designated counties. In such counties any person who as owner or operator is entitled to receive a share of Irish (white) potatoes produced for market (or the proceeds thereof) shall be entitled to one vote.

2. The State office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will supervise the referendum in each State.

3. The county agricultural conservation committee will be in charge of the referendum in each county.

4. The county committee in each designated county shall provide places for balloting, which should be readily accessible to all eligible voters in the county.

5. Adequate arrangements should be made for the casting of ballots by all producers. This may be accomplished by keeping one or more places for balloting open for at least 1 day, or by meetings of producers where arrangements are made for balloting, or both.

6. The county committee shall arrange for public notice of the place or places and the times for balloting. An effort should be made through local newspapers and other means to inform all potato growers about the referendum and to see that each casts a ballot.

7. The county committee shall provide a ballot box at each place of balloting. Any container so arranged that ballots may not be removed without breaking seals on the container will be suitable. If strip adhesive paper or similar seals are used, such seals should be signed or initialed so that breaking or replacing the seal will destroy the identifying marks.

B. CONDUCT OF REFERENDUM

1. At least one member of the county committee or one person designated by the committee shall be present at each place of balloting during the hours of balloting, and shall explain to each producer who makes inquiry the procedure to be followed in casting his ballot. It will also be his duty to supply copies of the leaflet G-74, Some Facts about Potatoes, and furnish such other information as may be available.

2. At all times while balloting is not in progress, used and unused ballots, signed and unsigned registry sheets, and all ballot boxes, shall be held under lock under the supervision of the chairman of the county committee.

3. Each producer who votes shall be required to sign the Form PM-1, Register of Potato Producers Voting in Irish (White) Potato Referendum (1937), setting forth the information therein indicated; provided, that any producer who is unable to appear in person at the places provided for balloting may be allowed to file with the county committee not later than the last day for balloting a signed ballot containing his vote and showing his address and the acreage of potatoes grown by him in 1936 and 1937 with the county committee. The county office shall list on separate register sheets the ballots filed with the county committee by persons who were unable to vote at the regular places provided for casting ballots. When a producer signs the Register he shall be given a Form ACP-44, Ballot for Potato Goal Referendum.

4. The representative of the county committee in charge of balloting shall insert in ink or with rubber stamp the State, county, and place of balloting in the blanks provided at the head of each sheet of the Register. When a sheet is filled or when the representatives of committees change, the representative of the committee in charge of the polling place should sign the certificate at the foot of the sheet and if the sheet is not filled, should draw vertical lines through the blank spaces.

C. COUNTING AND REPORTING BALLOTS

1. The county agricultural conservation committee in each county shall be responsible for counting ballots and tabulating results.

2. The ballots shall be counted and tabulated by the county committee or their designated representative immediately after the close of balloting on the final day for balloting. Such tabulation shall show the number of producers voting YES and the number of producers voting No.

3. Tabulations of the ballots shall be entered on a Form ACP-45, County Summary of Referendum Ballots on Irish (White) Potatoes Acreage Goal for 1938. This form shall be prepared and signed in triplicate by those in charge of counting the ballots. The proper State and county code number shall be entered in ink or by rubber stamp in the spaces provided for that purpose on each copy. One copy shall be held in the records of the county agricultural conservation committee, one mailed to the State office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and the original shall be forwarded to the proper regional director, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

4. The result of the balloting in each county may be announced by the county committee.

5. When ballots have been counted, they shall be placed in sealed packages and kept in the county office for a period of 3 months. If no contest of the results has arisen at the end of that time, the ballots may be destroyed. The Register shall be held in the county office.